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NEWSLETTER

A Bimonthly Newsletter for Economic Research Service Employees and Colleagues

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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Reid Detailed to Office of the Secretary

Norman Reid, deputy director for rural development of ERS's Agriculture and Rural Economy Division, is on detail to USDA's Office of the Under Secretary for Small Community and Rural Development to assist in creating a new USDA agency, the Rural Development Administration. The RDA's creation was authorized by the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990.

ERS To Cosponsor Rural Demographic Workshop

A workshop on "Population Change and the Future of Rural America" is being sponsored by ERS, Cornell University, and the Aspen Institute for Humanistic Studies. ERS sociologist Linda Swanson (219-0535) and David Brown (Cornell University) are organizing the workshop, to be held at the Wye Plantation, Queenstown, Md., May 30-June 1.

The goal of the workshop is to increase understanding of the role of demographics in rural

development. The restructuring of U.S. goods-producing and service industries is creating a new pattern of uneven development across regions. Demographic determinants and consequences of the restructuring are not well understood. The workshop will stimulate new ideas about the interaction of demographics and economics in the 1990's through debate and discussion among a multidisciplinary group of social scientists from diverse backgrounds and institutional settings. As part of the workshop, a banquet will honor ERS demographer Calvin Beale for his recently published collection of writings, *A Taste of the Country* (edited by Peter Morrison).

World Agriculture Is New ERS Periodical

The recently revised and expanded *World Agriculture* is a quarterly periodical dedicated to publishing articles dealing with worldwide developments in agricultural markets and trade.

Formerly in the ERS situation and outlook series, *World Agriculture* will feature special articles on major economic and trade policy issues around the world. The theme of the March 1991 issue is policy and structural reforms in Eastern European agriculture.

If you are not already a subscriber, call 1-800-999-6779 or write to the ERS-NASS order desk, P.O. Box 1608, Rockville, Md. 20849-1608.



Rossi Detailed to Office of Thrift Supervision

ERS senior financial analyst Clifford Rossi is on a 1-year detail to the Office of Thrift Supervision, U.S. Department of the Treasury, to carry out a major study on the cost structure of the S&L industry. Rossi will build on ERS work done on the S&L industry.

Rossi has been at ERS since 1985, except for a brief time at the U.S. Department of the Treasury in 1987. At ERS, Rossi has worked with tax analysis and financial topics affecting rural areas.

Rossi has a B.A. in economics and public policy from the University of Denver and an M.S. and a Ph.D. in resource economics from Cornell University. He has received two USDA Certificate of Merit Awards for research contributions in finance and tax.

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Workshop Focuses on Workforce Diversity

ERS recently sponsored a workshop on "New Ideas in Professional Opportunities for Women and Minorities in ERS," in Washington, D.C. Representatives from 22 colleges, universities, and professional organizations were invited to interact with ERS and USDA staff on employment and educational opportunities in ERS. USDA assistant secretary for administration Adis Vila discussed USDA's Workforce Diversity Initiative and USDA assistant secretary for economics Bruce Gardner addressed the issues as they relate to the agencies under his direction.

"Workforce Diversity and the University" was discussed by Ivery Clifton (University of Georgia), Jean Due (University of Illinois), and Dewitt Jones (Southern University). Alyce Bassoff (Economics Management Staff, USDA) gave an overview of existing programs and employment opportunities for ERS. New proposals for ERS were outlined by ERS acting associate administrator Anthony Grano.

ERS's Resources and Technology Division had lead responsibility for the workshop. RTD deputy director Betsey Kuhn presented a proposal, "Co-ops for Action," that provides for support to students and faculty interested in work related to RTD's research program. ERS economists Kevin Ingram, Eugene Lomax, and Kenneth Robinson spoke on their personal views of work experience in ERS.

Discussion groups focused on creative ways to enhance professional opportunities in ERS, particularly innovative ideas in recruitment. ERS administrator John Lee and RTD director John Miranowski pledged to consider the ideas and suggestions of the discussion groups and to report back to all participants.

Food Review Debuts

To reflect the increasing globalization of the food industry, ERS's quarterly *National Food Review* magazine has been renamed *Food Review*. In addition to the title change, the magazine's look has been updated to make it more appealing and easier to read. The magazine will continue to provide informative articles about the food system. The theme for the January-March 1991 issue is "Linking Agriculture to the Economy."

New ERS Seminar Series

ERS is initiating a monthly food safety seminar series. Seminar topics will cover the economics of food safety, including the costs and benefits of alternative pest control practices, assessment of the economic costs of human health risks from microbial and chemical sources, evaluation of regulatory options, and consumer risk perceptions and willingness to pay for food safety. For more information, call Tanya Roberts (219-0864) or Betsey Kuhn (219-0449).

ERS To Assist Taiwan

ERS and the Council of Agriculture in Taiwan have undertaken a cooperative effort to enhance Taiwan's commodity situation and outlook analysis and reporting capability. Through this cooperative program, Taiwan will institutionalize a situation and outlook program that provides timely estimates and forecasts on domestic and foreign supply, demand, and price information for selected commodities.

The project will also involve data base transfer and development of a computerized commodity information system. Agricultural statistics on Taiwan, ERS's world

trade and supply, demand, and price data base, and U.S. agricultural statistics will be exchanged. ERS analysts will also work with Taiwanese analysts in building commodity models, establishing a long-term baseline activity, designing a local area network of personal computers, and improving Taiwan's ability to use the information system to support policy analysis. The project, scheduled to be completed by the end of 1992, will focus on chicken eggs and peanuts in 1991 and on rice and citrus in 1992.

ERS staff will travel to Taiwan this spring to conduct technical training and assist analysts in situation and outlook reporting and data base transfer. ERS economist William Lin (219-0840) is coordinating the project.

ERS Newsletter

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Administrator's Letter—Some Questions About ERS: Part One



Recently, I was interviewed by Carol Morgan of *Farmline* magazine for a short article she was writing about the 30th anniversary of ERS. At the risk of repeating some material she used, here are some of her questions and my answers.

Q. Don Paarlberg said ERS had to be "the honest mirror to agriculture and the rural economy." Willard Cochrane once called ERS "the staff agency to the Nation." What is your view of the role of ERS?

A. First, ERS is many things to many people, but it cannot be all things to all people. The basic mission of ERS is to provide the economic and social science information that best assures that agriculture, the rural sector, and resource markets perform in a way that best serves the common good. I believe that has always been the mission of ERS and, to a large extent, the mission of its predecessor, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. The specifics of carrying out that mission have changed dramatically over time. Several decades ago the path to improving rural well-being was thought to be improvement of farm management skills. BAE devoted itself heavily to farm management and production economics work. Later, as farmer management skills improved, a perception emerged that many farmers were poor because they controlled too few resources. Thus, in the 1950's and 1960's, farm growth studies proliferated. Today, we focus on providing policymakers and decisionmakers (farmers, agribusiness, legislators, consumers, and others) with an understanding of markets and how they work, the consequences of alternative policies, and the consequences of alternative economic scenarios. Our premise is that such understanding, widely held, is most likely to assure that agriculture best serves the common good.

Another way to look at it is that ERS is an information agency seeking to provide, with the resources at its disposal, the information most likely to improve the performance of agriculture, the rural sector, and resource markets.

Q. What type of economists are desired in ERS?

A. ERS economists (as well as sociologists, demographers, and other professionals) must be at the leading edges of theory and methodology. We need people skilled in a range of methods and with the good judgment to know which method best fits a particular problem. Methods and theories are means. Our objective is to solve problems. In ERS, people whose approach is to look at an issue and figure how to best address it are sought over people who have one skill and look for a way to apply it.

Q. Is ERS growing and prospering?

A. ERS enjoys a good reputation and widespread support. During the 1980's, while ERS staff size and real dollar resources shrank, the demands on ERS from USDA and Congress grew. This turned out to be a blessing in disguise. We were forced to face up to priorities. Rather than address the question, "What is important that needs to be done?," we had to address the question, "Given who we are, where we are, the issues of the times, and the resources available to us, what are the *most* important things for us to be doing?"

That effort paid off. Today, we are a far more productive, efficient, and relevant organization than we were before times got tough. It also paid off in terms of building widespread support for ERS and its work. In 1991, we have our first budget increase in real terms in over 10 years. The prospects also look good for 1992 and beyond.

Q. Is the work of ERS indispensable?

A. Nothing is indispensable, especially not a Government agency. Some functions of government are more important than ERS's. Having said that, I feel ERS has proven itself extremely useful to the Government and to the American society, and that the benefits of the ERS program are many times greater than the money invested in us by the taxpayers. Ultimately, good information is indispensable to the workings of a free market economy. I therefore view the support for ERS as evidence of widespread faith in a free and competitive market economy.

In the next issue, I'll share a few more questions and answers. Meanwhile, I invite all readers of the *Newsletter* to share with me their thoughts about ERS's past and future.


John Lee

Current Research

California Drought and Federal Water

As California enters a fifth year of drought, ERS economist Noel Collehon (219-0410) is assessing possible agricultural production impacts of the drought, as part of an ongoing program that focuses on water problems of the West.

In normal agricultural water supply years (such as 1987), California has 7.6 million harvested irrigated acres, including large areas in vegetables and fruit and nut orchards (37 percent of the acreage). This year, irrigation water availability within the State will vary depending on surface water supply source, nature of surface water rights, and access to groundwater. By linking this year's water availability with historic agricultural activity for the nine California river basins, a qualitative assessment can be made of likely production effects.

In the Sacramento River basin (north-central California), for example, most growers will receive at least 75 percent of their normal water allocation because of the relatively high seniority of their water rights. Growers will be able either to produce their standard crops (rice, fruit, and forage) or to sell their water allocations in a market transaction.

In the Tulare Lake region (south-central California), growers normally rely heavily on water from the California State Water Project. Because the State Project suspended agricultural water deliveries this year, this area may suffer the most.

In the Colorado River region (southern California), virtually all water is imported from the Colorado River. As the drought will not affect this year's water supply to southern California, the region's usual large production of vegetables, fruit, alfalfa, and wheat is anticipated. An initial water

supply assessment appears in "California Growers Face Drought," *Agricultural Outlook* (AO-172), with an updated article planned for this summer.

The California drought demonstrates the ongoing need to address long-term issues of irrigation water conservation and reallocation mechanisms. These issues include reform of Federal water supply pricing, streamlining institutional impediments to voluntary water transfers, and other regulatory options. ERS economist Michael Moore (219-0410) and Donald Negri (Willamette University) have conducted research on the crop production impacts of Bureau of Reclamation water supply reductions. U.S. Bureau of Reclamation water projects supply surface water to roughly 10 million irrigated acres in the 17 western States (one-quarter of the region's irrigated acreage). Moore and Negri's research involved econometric analysis of the effect of Bureau of Reclamation water supply on cropland allocation decisions. Two key findings emerged. One, cropland allocation elasticities with respect to Bureau of Reclamation water supply are generally inelastic. Thus, the crop production adjustments would be relatively minor given moderate water supply reductions. Two, despite the elasticities, production changes of rice, vegetables, and fruit and nut crops could be sufficiently large to change national market prices. Reclamation-supplied farms produce 10-40 percent of the national production of these crops. ERS researchers estimated that, through the production impacts, a long-term, permanent, 10-percent water supply reduction would increase the rice price by 5 percent and vegetable prices by 1 percent, but would reduce fruit and nut prices by 3 percent.

Federal policy can direct the extent to which market incentives, water prices, and water conservation regulations affect reallocation of Reclamation water supply from agriculture to other

sectors. An article by Moore, "The Bureau of Reclamation's New Mandate for Irrigation Water Conservation: Purposes and Policy Alternatives," *Water Resources Research* (February 1991), describes possible purposes of a Reclamation water conservation policy and analyzes alternative methods of implementing such a policy. Two findings are that price-based regulation may not produce widespread irrigation water conservation and conservation policy instruments should be chosen with reference to their ability to achieve the purposes of a Federal water conservation policy. For example, if an environmental quality standard is the policy purpose, complete reliance on water markets may not achieve the environmental quality goal.

Personnel Notes

Glauber Is New CED Deputy Director

Joseph Glauber has been appointed deputy director, Commodity Economics Division. He will be responsible for coordinating congressionally mandated studies and other special projects for ERS.



Glauber joined ERS in 1984. Since 1987, he has served as leader of ERS's Fibers and Oils Research Section. He also has served as leader of an ERS task force on crop insurance and disaster assistance. Glauber's work has been published in the *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, *Review of Futures Markets*, and in numerous ERS publications. He is associate editor of the *AJAE*.

Glauber has an A.B. in anthropology from the University of Chicago and a Ph.D. in agricultural economics from the University of Wisconsin. He has received two ERS Excellence Awards—one for outstanding research in assessing the budgetary impacts of generic certificates and one for outstanding staff analysis in assessing marketing loan program options. He also has received an ERS Administrator's Special Merit Award for staff analysis supporting USDA officials in the development of the 1990 farm law.

Caswell Is New RTD Section Leader

Margriet Caswell is the new leader, Agricultural Research and Technology Assessment Section, Resource Indicators Branch, Resources and Technology Division.



Caswell recently came to ERS from the University of California (Santa Barbara) where she was assistant professor of economics and environmental studies. Caswell has conducted research on technology adoption and diffusion, agricultural water conservation, and the development of the mariculture industry. Caswell has authored articles in the *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, *Water International*, and *Contemporary Policy Issues* and chapters in *Changing the Global Environment: Perspectives on Human Involvement* and *The Economics and Management of Water and Drainage in Agriculture*.

Caswell has a B.S. in natural resource development and an M.S. in resource economics from the University of Rhode Island and a Ph.D. in agricultural and natural resource economics from the University of California (Berkeley).

Crawford Is New CED Branch Chief

Terry Crawford is the new chief, Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry



Branch, Commodity Economics Division. He joined ERS in 1970 and worked in the National Economic Analysis and Marketing Economics Divisions. During 1978–80, Crawford was detailed to the Council on Wage and Price Stability as senior price analyst and assistant director, Food, Agriculture, and Trade Division. In 1980, he was also a senior program analyst with the Internal Revenue Service.

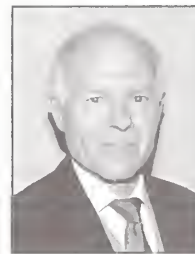
Crawford became leader of ERS's Livestock Research Section in 1980 and has conducted research in the areas of marketing, costs of production, grazing fees, price spreads, prices, and trade. His research has been published in various situation and outlook reports and USDA series, as well as in the *Journal of Agricultural Economics Research* and the *Journal of Food Distribution Research*. Crawford has served on the editorial board of the *JAER*, as delegate to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development's meat and dairy groups, and as ERS representative to several regional research projects.

Crawford has a B.S. in agricultural economics and economics from New Mexico State University and an M.S. in agricultural marketing and economic theory and a Ph.D. in marketing, policy analysis, quantitative methods, and industrial organization and control from Cornell University. He has received a USDA Certificate of Merit and a group USDA Superior Service Award for work on food prices and marketing costs. He has also

received three other USDA Certificates of Merit for work on trade liberalization, the farm bill, and OECD work.

Sharples Is New ATAD Deputy Director

Jerry Sharples has been appointed deputy director for



research, Agriculture and Trade Analysis Division. He will be responsible for research program management.

Sharples joined USDA's

Agricultural Research Service in 1957 and has been with ERS since it was created in 1961. During 1961–85, he had ERS assignments at Ohio State University, Iowa State University, and Purdue University. Since then, he has been section leader and senior economist in the Agricultural and Trade Policy Branch. His research and writings have focused on U.S. agricultural policy and international trade.

Sharples has represented ERS on various overseas assignments: four to the Philippines, four to Egypt, one to the People's Republic of China, one to the Institute for Applied Systems Analysis in Austria, and one at the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics. All assignments were related to modeling or managing domestic and trade policy research.

Sharples has a B.S. and M.S. from Ohio State University and a Ph.D. from Iowa State University all in agricultural economics. He also studied international trade at Stanford University during 1978–79.

Whitener Named Section Leader in ARED

Leslie Whitener is the new leader, Agricultural Labor Section, Farm and Rural Economy Branch, Agriculture and Rural Economy Division. The section is responsible for analyzing the factors affecting the supply of and demand for agricultural employment, examining the socioeconomic characteristics of the agricultural work force, and estimating the need for agricultural labor as required by the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986.



Since 1985, Whitener has worked in ERS's Rural Labor Section, conducting research on employment conditions and trends in rural areas. Her most recent work has focused on the determinants and consequences of multiple job-holding in rural areas and on labor market disadvantages facing U.S. farmers. During 1972-85, Whitener worked in the Agricultural Labor Section, studying farm labor supply and demand and the implications of farm labor policies and programs for U.S. farmworkers. Whitener's research has been published in *Monthly Labor Review*, *Rural Sociology*, rural development books, and in ERS publications.

Whitener has a B.S. in sociology and economics from Madison College and an M.A. and a Ph.D. in sociology from American University. She has received a USDA Certificate of Merit for her work in the Rural Labor Section and was a corecipient of an ERS Administrator's Special Merit Award for her efforts on the *Rural Development Perspectives* editorial board.

ERS Hosts University of Arkansas' Wailes

Eric Wailes, associate professor of agricultural economics,



University of Arkansas, is working in ERS's Commodity Economics Division during 1991. During his stay in ERS, Wailes will conduct research on the U.S. rice industry to investigate price, quality, and institutional relationships of world rice trade

and the impacts of domestic and trade policy liberalization.

Wailes has been on the faculty of the Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology at the University of Arkansas since 1980. He has specialized in rice marketing and policy analysis. His most recent research has focused on liberalization of the Japanese rice market and a social cost analysis of U.S. rice programs.

Wailes has a B.S. from Cornell University and a Ph.D. from Michigan State University. He has written numerous research publications on rice supply, demand, and policies and teaches marketing and policy courses.

Highlights of Staff Activities

Agriculture and Rural Economy Division

At a Decision Sciences Institute Southeast Region meeting in Crystal City, Va., **Douglas Duncan** presented a paper, "A Logit Model for Identifying High Performance Agricultural Banks" (coauthored by **George Wallace**); **James McGlone** presented a paper, "Contingent Claims and Bank Behavior"; **James Mikesell** presented a paper, "Does Rural Lending by Branch Banks Match Their Presence in Rural Markets: The Agricultural Loan Experience"; **Clifford Rossi** presented a paper, "Determinants of Undercapitalized Thrifts"; and **Patrick Sullivan** chaired a session, "Problems in Managing and Regulating Rural Financial Institutions" • **McGlone** also presented a paper, "A Microeconomic Model of Banking under Uncertainty," at an Eastern Economic Association meeting in Pittsburgh, Pa. • **Sullivan** and **John Redman** participated in a National Governor's Association rural

development policy conference in Fairfax, Va. • **Mary Ahearn** reviewed a proposal on "An Economic Analysis of Alternative Sources of Family Income for Part-time Farm Families" at a meeting at West Virginia University • **Alan Bird** presented a paper, "The Last Agricultural Revolution—A New Lifestyle"; and **Alex Majchrowicz** presented a paper, "Employment Changes in Rural America's Farm and Farm-Related Industries During 1975-87," at a conference on "Rural Planning and Development: Visions of the 21st Century," sponsored by the University of Florida, in Orlando, Fla. • **Douglas Bowers** participated in an American Historical Association meeting in New York, N.Y. • **Thomas Carlin** spoke on the U.S. agriculture sector and **Sara Mazie** presented a profile of rural America at a National Leadership Development Program sponsored by the National Center for Food and Agricultural Policy, Resources for the Future, in Washington, D.C. • **John Cromartie** presented a paper, "Dynamics of Nonmetropolitan Out-Migration, 1989-90" at a Population Association of America meeting in Washington, D.C. • **Chinkook Lee** presented a paper, "An Analysis of North Korea's Attempt at Economic

Development," at an Allied Social Science Associations meeting in Washington, D.C. • **Richard Reeder** participated in a Transportation Research Board meeting in Washington, D.C. • **Norman Reid** and **David Sears** participated in a President's Rural Development Initiative Leadership seminar, in Washington, D.C. • **Sears and Redman** participated in a meeting of the Council of Governors' Policy Advisers, in Fairfax, Va. • and **Peggy Ross** presided over a session, "Rurality: Identification and Consequences," at a Southern Rural Sociological Association meeting in Fort Worth, Tex.

Agriculture and Trade Analysis Division

Harry Baumes and **Walter Gardiner** participated in a meeting on the ministerial trade mandate model at the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, in Paris, France • **Nancy Cochrane** presented a paper, "Trade Implications of EC-1992 for Reforming Eastern Europe"; and **Suchada Langley** and **Eduardo Segarra** presented a paper, "Current Trade Barriers and Other Government Interventions in Mexico and the United States," at a Southern Agricultural Economics Association meeting, in Fort Worth, Tex. • **Cochrane** also presented a paper, "Eastern Europe: Implications for U.S. Agribusiness," at a University of Santa Clara agribusiness conference • **Frederick Crook** and **Francis Tuan** participated in a Center for Strategic and International Studies meeting on "Relations Across the Taiwan Straits: Implications for U.S. Policy," in Washington, D.C. • **Brian D'Silva** spoke on "Mitigating Famine: The Crisis in Sudan" at a Society for International Development roundtable meeting, in Washington, D.C. • **Robert Koopman** presented a paper, "Agriculture's Role during the Transition from Plan to Market:

Real Prices, Real Incentives, and Potential Equilibrium," at a Bureau of Labor Statistics-Eurostat conference on "Statistics in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union," in Washington, D.C. • **Douglas Maxwell** and **Mark Peters** participated in a conference on "Economic Accounting for Commodity Costs and Returns" cosponsored by ERS, the Farm Foundation, American Agricultural Economics Association, and USDA's Extension Service, in Kansas City, Mo. • **Howard McDowell** presented a paper, "Implications of the 1990 Farm Bill for the Dairy Industry," at a Southern Dairy Conference in Atlanta, Ga. • **Daniel Pick** presented a seminar, "Whither Armington Models?," at the U.S. International Trade Commission, in Washington, D.C. • and **Gary Vocke** presented a paper, "Technology Transfer: Third World and U.S. Agricultural Interests," at a National Association of Wheat Growers meeting in Washington, D.C.

Commodity Economics Division

Mark Ash and **Mack Leath** spoke on the status of ERS's grain cleaning study at an NC-151 regional research committee (Economic Consequences of Alternative Food and Agricultural Policies) meeting in Indianapolis, Ind. • **Richard Fallert** presented a paper, "Economics of bST: Impacts on the Farmer, the Consumer, and the Industry" (coauthored by **Donald Blayney**), at an American Association for the Advancement of Science meeting in Washington, D.C. • **Allen Johnson**, **Mack Leath**, and **Robert McElroy** participated in USDA's NASS/ERS data users meetings in Memphis, Tenn., and Kansas City, Mo. • **Janet Livezey** spoke on the U.S. rice outlook at a Texas Farm Bureau leadership conference in Austin, Tex. • **Ronald Lord** spoke on sugar costs of production at an International

Sweetener Colloquium sponsored by the Sweeteners Users Association and at a meeting of the California Beet Growers Association, in Palm Springs, Calif. • **Nedra Mahone** and **Sara Short** participated in a Southern Dairy Conference, in Atlanta, Ga. • **Terry Crawford** and **Hosein Shapouri** authored a paper, "ERS National Commodity Costs and Returns Estimates for Major Field Crops, Livestock, and Dairy" which was presented by **Mitchell Morehart** (ARED) at an Economic Accounting for Commodity Costs and Return conference cosponsored by ERS, the Farm Foundation, American Agricultural Economics Association, and USDA's Extension Service, in Kansas City, Mo. • **Frederic Surls**, **Edwin Young**, **John Dunmore** (ATAD), **Nancy Cochrane** (ATAD), and **Francis Urban** (ATAD) traveled to Poland as part of ERS's efforts to assist Eastern European Countries develop economic information systems • **James Schaub** participated in a feed grains and soybeans panel at a meeting of the Kentucky Farm Bureau, in Washington, D.C. • and **Carolyn Whitton** organized and chaired a panel, "GATT Impact on Textiles and Agriculture," at a Beltwide Cotton Conference in San Antonio, Tex.

Resources and Technology Division

At an Allied Social Science Associations meeting in Washington, D.C., **Margot Anderson** presented a paper, "International Technology Transfer: Private Channels and Public Welfare" (coauthored with **Bruce Larson**); **David Ervin** was a paper discussant, "Data Needs to Assess Environmental Quality Issues Related to Agriculture and Rural Areas"; **George Frisvold** presented a paper, "Emerging Issues in the Allocation of Public Agricultural Research Funds"; and **Jan Lewandowski** presented a paper,

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"Economic Factors Affecting Deforestation and Forest Preservation in the Tropics" • **Ervin** and other RTD participants (**Steve Crutchfield**, **Robert Kellogg**, **Richard Magleby**, **Arun Malik**, **Michael Moore**, **Marc Ribaud**, **Parveen Setia**, and **Robbin Shoemaker**) presented their plans for ERS's water quality research program at Airlie, Va.; **William Boggess** (U. of Florida), **Susan Capalbo** (Montana State U.), **Otto Doering** (Purdue U.), **Richard Howitt** (U. of California-Davis), **Tim Phipps** (West Virginia U.), **Tony Prato** (U. of Missouri-Columbia), and **Kathy Segerson** (U. of Connecticut) then presented their reactions to the program and suggestions for improving it • **Ralph Heimlich** presented a paper, "Agricultural Adaptations to Urbanization: Farmtypes in the U.S. Metropolitan Areas" (coauthored by **Charles Barnard**, **ARED**) and **Kenneth Krupa** presented a paper, "How Urban Pressure Affected Agriculture Sales in Fast Growth Counties: 1950-1987" (coauthored by **Marlow Vesterby**), at a conference, "Rural Planning and Development: Visions of the 21st Century," sponsored by the University of Florida, in Orlando, Fla. • **Heimlich** presented a paper, "Agricultural

Adaptations to Urbanization: Farmtypes in the U.S. Metropolitan Areas" (coauthored by **Barnard**), at a WRCC-71 symposium on "Agriculture near Cities," in Monterey, Calif. • at a Southern Agricultural Economics Association meeting in Ft. Worth, Tex., **Wen-yuan Huang** presented a paper, "The Effects of Alternative Farm Policies on Reducing Excessive Nitrogen Fertilizer Use" (coauthored with **Rona Lantin**); **Richard Nehring** presented a paper, "Chemical Use and Profitability in the Corn Belt and Delta: Implications for Policy" (coauthored with **Agapi Somwaru**, **DSC**); **John Schaub** was a discussant of a paper on the "Economic Impacts of Chemical Use Reduction on the South"; **Parveen Setia** presented a paper, "Impact of Risk on Alternative Management Systems to Improve Environmental Quality"; and **Abebayehu Tegené** presented a paper, "Testing for Speculative Bubbles in Farmland Markets" • **John Reilly** spoke on climate change research at a public lecture at the Woodrow Wilson School and at a meeting with faculty from the Woodrow Wilson School, the Economics Department, and the Center for Energy Studies, at Princeton University.

Data Services Center

Linda Atkinson presented a paper, "Coding a User Application into the Executive Information System of SAS/ASSIST Software," and **Charlie Hallahan** presented a paper, "A Window-based Graphics Toolkit Using SAS/IML Software," at a SAS User Group International meeting in New Orleans, La. • and **Agapi Somwaru** participated in a Career Week 1991 program, "Operations Research: Career Fields," at George Washington University.

Office of the Administrator

Anthony Grano participated in USDA's NASS/ERS data users meetings in Memphis, Tenn., and Kansas City, Mo. • **John Lee** and **Edward Reinsel** participated in an Economic Accounting for Commodity Costs and Returns conference cosponsored by ERS, the Farm Foundation, American Agricultural Economics Association, and USDA's Extension Service, in Kansas City, Mo. • and **Reinsel** represented ERS on an FY 1992 budget implications panel at a meeting of the Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics, in Washington, D.C.